

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

The following is a marked-up version of the claims with the language that is underlined (“ ”) being added and the language that contains strikethrough (“~~—~~”) being deleted:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for checking the spelling of words in a document during performance of an automated spell check of the document, comprising the steps of:

identifying an unfamiliar word in the document;

generating at least one alternative spelling of the unfamiliar word to create a word variant;

providing the unfamiliar word and the at least one word variant to a search engine configured to search for a frequency of use of the unfamiliar word and the at least one word variant; and

presenting ~~the results~~ information corresponding to the frequency of use of the unfamiliar word search and the at least one word variant to the user.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ identifying an unfamiliar word comprises determining whether a word is stored within a word database.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising ~~the steps of~~ presenting the user with word suggestions based upon similarly spelled words located within the word database.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one alternative spelling is generated by an algorithm configured to replace letters of the unfamiliar word with similarly sounding letters.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of providing~~ the unfamiliar word and the at least one word variant to a search engine comprises transmitting the unfamiliar word and the at least one word variant to the search engine via a network from a remote location.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the search engine comprises an Internet search engine.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~7~~1, wherein the frequency is expressed in terms of number of hits for the unfamiliar word and the at least one word variant.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~7~~1, wherein the frequency is expressed in terms of a percentage.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~7~~1, further comprising the step of permitting the user to select the at least one word variant to replace the unfamiliar word after receiving the frequency information.

11. (Currently Amended) A system for checking the spelling of words, comprising:

means for identifying an unfamiliar word in a document during performance of an automated spell check of the document;

means for generating at least one alternative spelling of the unfamiliar word to create a word variant;

means for providing the unfamiliar word and the at least one word variant to a search engine configured to search for a frequency of use of the unfamiliar word and the at least one word variant; and

means for presenting ~~the results~~ information corresponding to the frequency of use of the unfamiliar word search and the at least one word variant to the user.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, further comprising means for presenting the user with suggested words that have similar spellings to the unfamiliar word.

13. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the means for generating at least one alternative spelling comprise an algorithm configured to replace letters of the unfamiliar word with similarly sounding letters.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~1~~11, wherein the means for presenting the frequency of use ~~results~~ to the user comprise means for presenting an indication of the frequency with which the unfamiliar word and the at least one word variant appear within a database.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, further comprising means for permitting the user to select the at least one word variant to replace the unfamiliar word after receiving the frequency information.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium including a program for checking the spelling of words, comprising:

logic configured to identify an unfamiliar word in a document during performance of an automated spell check of the document;

logic configured to generate at least one alternative spelling of the unfamiliar word to create a word variant;

logic configured to provide the unfamiliar word and the at least one word variant to a search engine configured to search for a frequency of use of the unfamiliar word and the at least one word variant; and

logic configured to present ~~the results~~ information corresponding to the frequency of use of the word search and the at least one word variant to the user.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim ~~11~~ 16, further comprising logic configured to present the user with suggested words that have similar spellings to the unfamiliar word.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim ~~11~~ 16, wherein the logic configured to generate at least one alternative spelling comprises an algorithm configured to replace letters of the unfamiliar word with similarly sounding letters.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim ~~4~~16, wherein the logic configured to present ~~results~~the frequency of use to the user comprises logic configured to present an indication of the frequency with which the unfamiliar word and the at least one word variant appear within a database.

20. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 19, further comprising logic configured to permit the user to select the at least one word variant to replace the unfamiliar word after receiving the frequency information.